

هذا من الاصح

The Jordan Times Interview

host of jobs for which we cannot find Jordanians'

Jenab Tutunji
to the Jordan Times

A shift in the direction of labour demand both domestic market and in the region, coupled with an expanding economy, will be the main determinant of labour supply and demand over the coming few years, the Minister of Labour Jawad Al Anani told the Jordan Times in an interview here.

The 420,000 Jordanians in the East Bank, about 75 per cent of them with the government or public institutions. In 1980, there were 100,000 migrant workers in Jordan and 200,000 Jordanians from the East Bank working abroad, according to data from primary sources. These expatriates sent remittances worth between \$200 million a year, at a conservative estimate.

The National Planning Council estimates that the additional demand for the East Bank will range between 120,000 and 150,000 in the 1981-85 period. The increase will mount to at least 200,000 job seekers, while the supply will shift in favour of highly skilled or maintenance workers.

How can we resolve this discrepancy, we can cater to the market and export labour, Anani said.

Employment in Jordan is increasing, involving workers in hotels, petrol stations, cleaning, and many other small jobs, Dr. Anani said.

Significantly, the Jordanian market is adopting labour saving techniques, whether in agriculture, construction or even rubbish collection.

"We are not worried about the size of the immigrant labour force in Jordan because it is to-and-fro migration; they don't come to stay and they don't bring their families — except for European experts working here," Dr. Anani went on.

"When someone applies for a permit to import labour, he must go through the ministry. We ask him to advertise for at least two consecutive days. Applicants are interviewed by the employer at the ministry's employment office, under our supervision. It is only after the employer takes all the local applicants he can that we allow him to bring in the balance from outside the country."

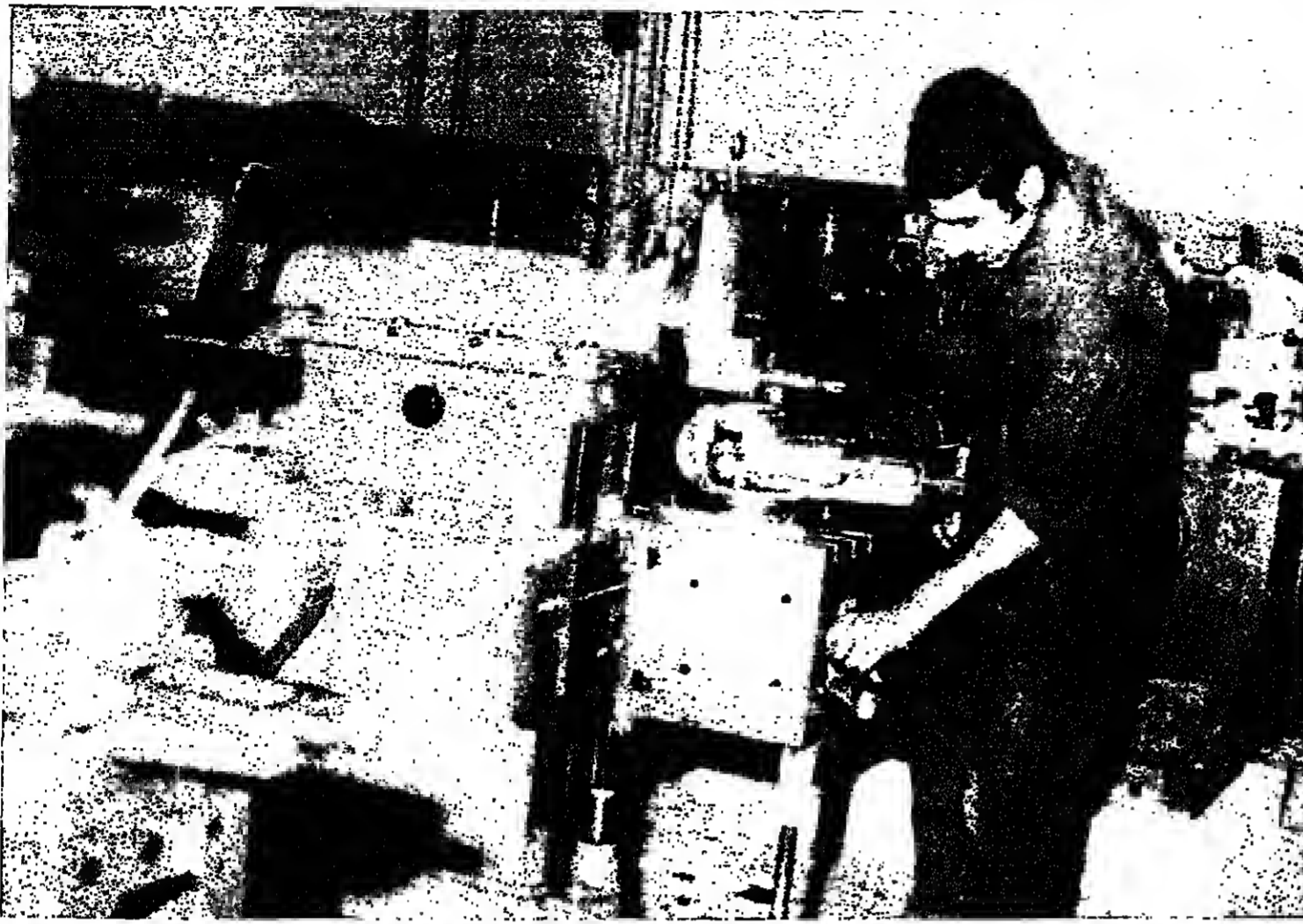
"In the case of large companies, we ask them to sign apprenticeship training contracts with the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC), under which the VTC recruits a number of trainees who receive classroom instruction for some time and then move on to on-the-job training for about six months."

"However, to make the package attractive to the employer, we consider the training period to be three years, during which the trainee receives an apprentice's

salary. Some trainees are under 18, and don't receive Social Security benefits, which makes it cheaper for the employer.

"All trainees must be preparatory school graduates (must have completed the ninth grade). Their enthusiasm to receive such training is very encouraging indeed. Last year the VTC received 1,500 applicants, while it only had vacancies for 700. This year we expect to admit at least 1,500."

"The VTC is run by a board of directors in which labour unions are represented," Dr. Anani said. Of the 300,000 Jordanians working abroad, 25 per cent are in Kuwait, another 25 per cent in Saudi Arabia and about 15 per cent in other Gulf States. There are about 40,000 Jordanians working in Western Europe (including 25,000 in West Germany), and about 35,000 in the United States. There are 10,000 to 15,000 Jordanians in Iraq, mainly businessmen. "I expect this number to increase tremendously," Dr. Anani said. There are also significant numbers in Algeria and Libya.



Eight thousand industrial trainees will graduate from vocational centres in the next five years to meet Jordan's growing demand for skilled labour.

Migration to Europe, the U.S. and Canada tends to be permanent; those in the Gulf tend to stay for a long time, but most of them want to come back," he added.

In the late 1970s, 10,000 to 12,000 Jordanians were migrating to the Arabian peninsula, mainly Saudi Arabia, each year. This number has declined to between

5,000 and 6,000 a year, as labour sources for the peninsula increased and economic activity in some Gulf states declined after 1978.

"We expect a shift in demand distribution over the coming five years. Saudi Arabia will continue to be the main absorber, while others which were marginal absorbers, such as Oman, will be importing more Jordanian labour," Dr. Anani said.

There will also be more demand by the private sector in those countries for Jordanians with specific skills.

Saudi Arabia is now employing

takes place on two fronts: first, since large private sector corporations pay income tax in the full 38 to 45 per cent range, any given increase in wages represents a parallel increase in cost, which is tax deductible. For instance, if wages go up by 20 per cent, the employer in fact pays about 12 per cent while the government pays the rest. Of course one has to subtract the increase in income tax paid by the employees; but this is not significant in most cases, Dr. Anani said.

In the second place, the government subsidises certain consumer items, which boosts the purchasing power of wages. Allowing for such subsidies, wages will continue to rise. "I expect the government will expand its services on two major expenditure items in any family budget: housing and health. If these two items materialise, then wages will certainly be enhanced," he added.

"Increases in cash wages and fringe benefits have certainly been very impressive. There are certain areas, however, especially in small factories, where wages are still lagging. The ministry is working on this problem."

At present, there are 63,000 subscribers to the Social Security scheme, who account for about 50 per cent of those working for the private sector. A number of government employees are also expected to be covered by the scheme before the end of this year; in fact, the government has allocated JD 2 million in the 1981 budget for this purpose, representing its share as an employer.

The total number of Jordanians who are expected to be covered by Social Security within the next few years is 150,000 from the private sector and 100,000 government employees. Participation in the Social Security scheme will also be offered to Jordanians working abroad, but on a voluntary basis, Dr. Anani said.

"If we enhance the labour side, I don't think that Jordan will have labour shortages as acute as in the late 1970s," Dr. Anani said.

Wages have increased by over 90 per cent on the average in the last five-year plan period, while prices only went up 67 per cent between 1975 and 1980. In certain cases, as in large factories, wage increases exceeded 150 per cent, he added.

The upward pressure on wages stems from inflation and excess demand for labour because of the full employment situation. Inflation began to hit Jordan in 1973, but wages did not catch up until 1977, when the annual rise in wages, especially in large factories, outstripped the rise in prices. The pressure was felt by the government, and the salaries of civil servants were increased, notably in 1977, 1979 and 1981. After 1977, wage increases have been commensurate with the rise in price levels, he went on.

Dr. Anani argues that wage increases are to some extent subsidised by the government. This

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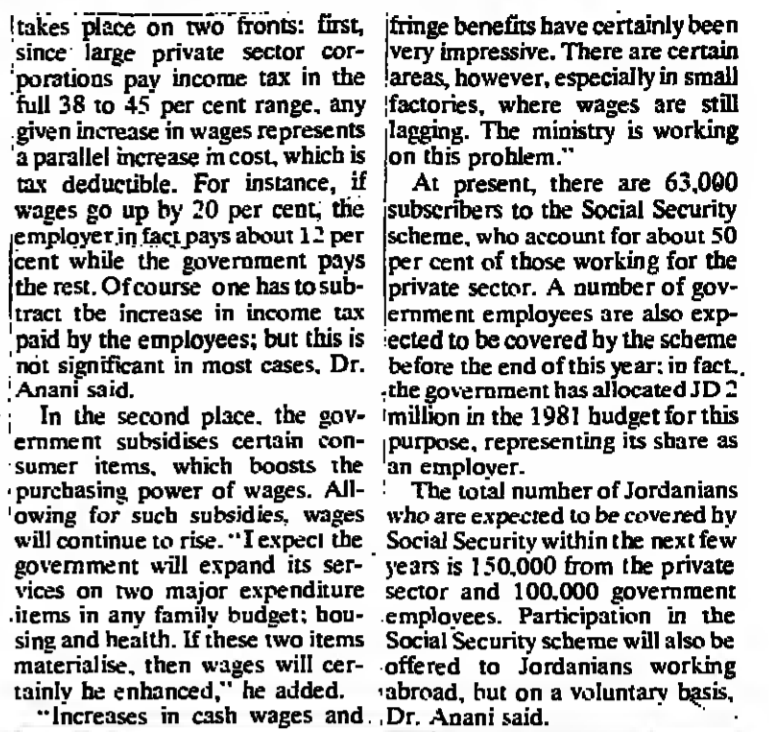
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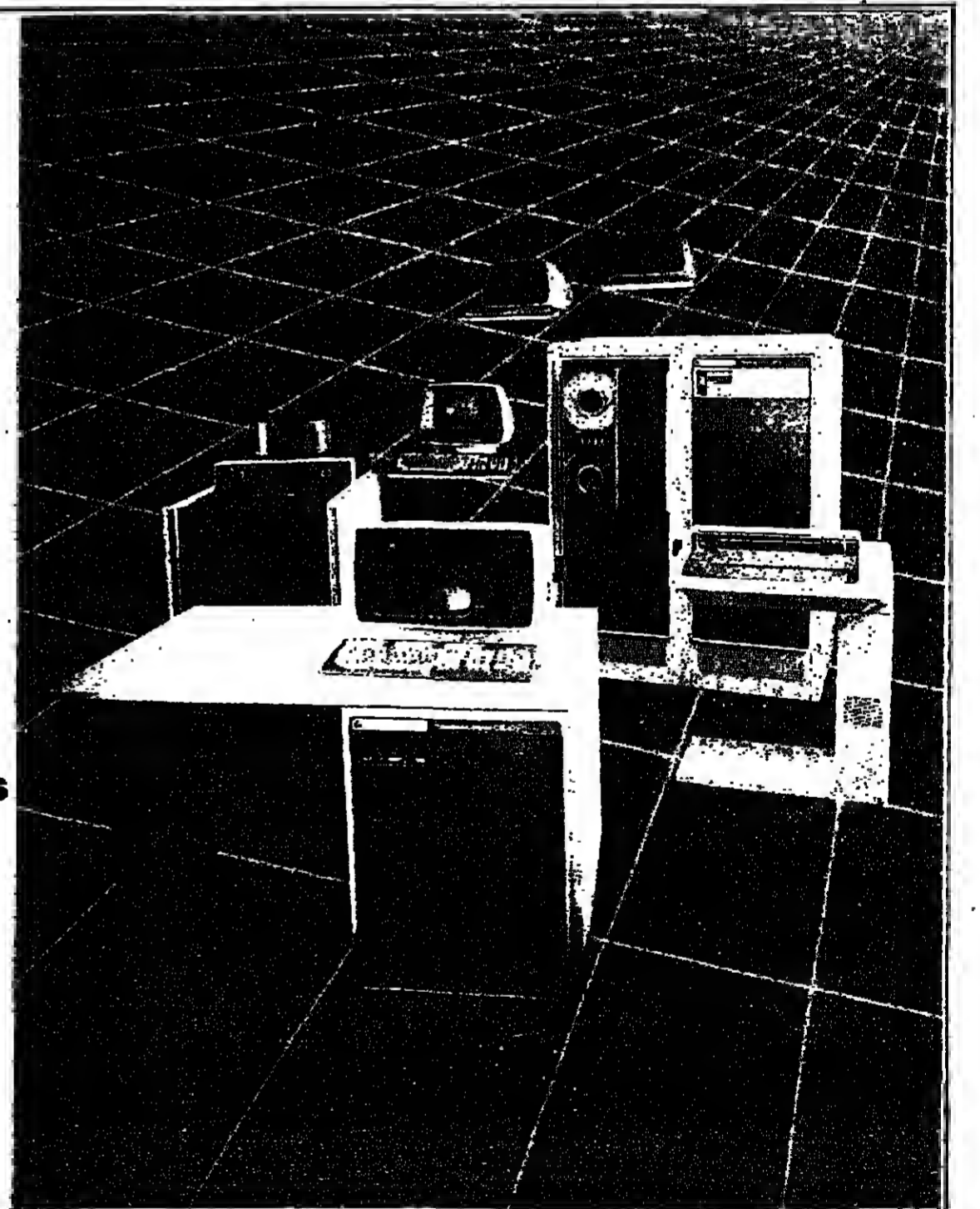


Jawad Al Anani

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For one bank employee, life's always 'going up...'

By Dina Matar
Special to the Jordan Times

AN — Mr. Taha Abdullah Al Kasih has been a lifeguard at the Arab Bank for 16 years — and he enjoys it.

Kasih, who is 37 now, first worked at the Arab Bank as a lifeguard, before moving to his current job. And after 16 years and down the six-floor lift, he has a broad smile for his job, and always greets his clients with a pleasant word or

he usually works at 8 a.m. and finishes at 12:30 p.m. when the lift closes its doors. During his hours and a half, Mr. Kasih is cheerful — and cheery. He says, "I love my job, and I would not change it for all the money in the world," he told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Kasih has been married for 10 years, but he does not have children. This is the only sad thing in his life, he says, but he still

enjoys all the years, he has spent at the bank. Mr. Kasih has been late, and the employees have learned to love him. He says, "I love people and

and people

love to talk, too. The employees usually tell me their problems at home, and I don't mind."

Mr. Kasih does not understand people's inborn fear of lifts. He jokes about it and says that he has never once felt frightened. Naturally, he need not be the least bit scared, since the Arab Bank has its own power generator always at hand in case the electricity is cut off.

"I remember that the electricity has gone off just twice, and I handled everything with extreme calm," he recalled. "The lift is a man-controlled machine, and there is nothing to be frightened of," he added.

Besides his pleasant demeanour, Mr. Kasih has a good memory. He never forgets a face, he says proudly, and he even remembers the names of many clients. At a bank with more than 4,000 employees, and as many clients, this is truly something to be proud of.

Every day about 500 persons of different statures, ages, and sexes use Mr. Kasih's lift, and he does

not remember a day when he did not feel like working.

"I come from a small village near Hebron, where my family lost its land," he said; "but I do not feel despondent about it." But when Mr. Kasih talks about his homeland, and remembers the country, his eyes become watery. His greatest wish is to be able to see his land again — though his most urgent one is to have a child.

"I pray that God may give me children," he said, and I always try to be hopeful. I believe in his greatness and wisdom."

Mr. Kasih not only greets people with a smile that reaches from ear to ear, but also strives to make a good impression in other ways. He always wears the best suits with matching ties, and his clean-cut appearance makes one feel at home.

"My appearance reflects my heart," he said. "I love neatness because my heart is pure." The bank employees do not remember a day when Mr. Kasih was not dressed up and cheerful.

His habits are not out of the ordinary. He simply gets up in the morning, goes to work and returns home. He likes his ordered life, and adores his family. He spends his afternoons either reading newspapers or visiting his parents.

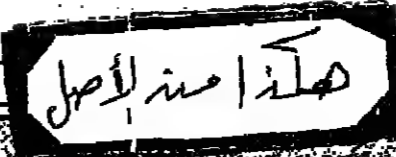


Taha Abdullah Al Kasih

days I have one complaint, which is the high prices charged for everything. I hope something can be done about it."

His employees are very proud of him, and Mr. Kasih recalls that the late Mr. Abdul Hameed Shoman, the founder of the Arab Bank, used to have daily chats with him.

The devoted lift operator does not like to travel, but says he would like to go back to his hometown one day, "when it is freed." For now he is content to stick to his job, and just hopes for the day when the sound of children's laughter may fill his house.



MIDDLE EAST

Flatto faces new corruption charges

TEL AVIV, May 19 (A.P.) A parliamentary committee voted 9-4 to suspend the membership of Mr. Samuel Flatto-Sharon, a by parliamentarian who is appealing a nine-month prison sentence after his conviction for election fraud.

Security tightens as Israeli envoy arrives in Cairo

CAIRO, May 19 (A.P.) — While nations were backing Syria in its confrontation with Israel, the Egyptian government dispatched its second ambassador ever to Cairo yesterday.

He is prosecuted on a charge of embezzling funds from a charitable institution he set up while he was mayor of Ramle, a town east of Tel Aviv.

Israel alleges Palestinian commandos cross via Egypt

TEL AVIV, May 19 (A.P.) — Palestinian commandos are infiltrating into the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and shipping ammunition across the border because Egyptian border authorities are not exerting sufficient control at the El-Arish border crossing, Israeli press reports said yesterday.

MIDDLE EAST BRIEFS

Arab League Foreign ministers meet on Friday

TUNIS, May 19 (A.P.) Foreign ministers of the Arab League will hold an extraordinary meeting here on Friday to discuss the situation in Lebanon and the risk of an Israeli-Syrian war, sources close to the League's secretariat here said today.

Moscow sends congratulations on Atatürk's birth anniversary

MOSCOW, May 19 (A.P.) — Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev sent congratulations to Turkey today on the 100th anniversary of the birth of Kemal Atatürk, the Soviet press reported.

Iranian authorities seek murderers of clergyman

BEIRUT, May 19 (A.P.) — Iranian authorities clashed with "bandits" at the town of Saravan in southeastern Iran while seeking the murder of a Sunni holy man reported killed nearly a week ago, the Pars news agency reported.

Afghan scholar finds life intolerable in Kabul

ISLAMBAD, May 19 (A.P.) — An Afghan scholar who defected to Pakistan ten days ago has said that fewer political prisoners were now being executed by the Soviet-backed regime in Afghanistan but most were living in rural bombings areas.

After sending his wife and two daughters out of the country with passports he obtained last year through bribery, he said he paid 20,000 Afghanis (about \$430) to a jeep owner who smuggled him into Afghanistan.

Afghan refugees in India hope to make it to U.S.

NEW DELHI: Hundreds of young Afghans, who fled their country to avoid arrest or conscription, have arrived in New Delhi to seek a new home in the United States.

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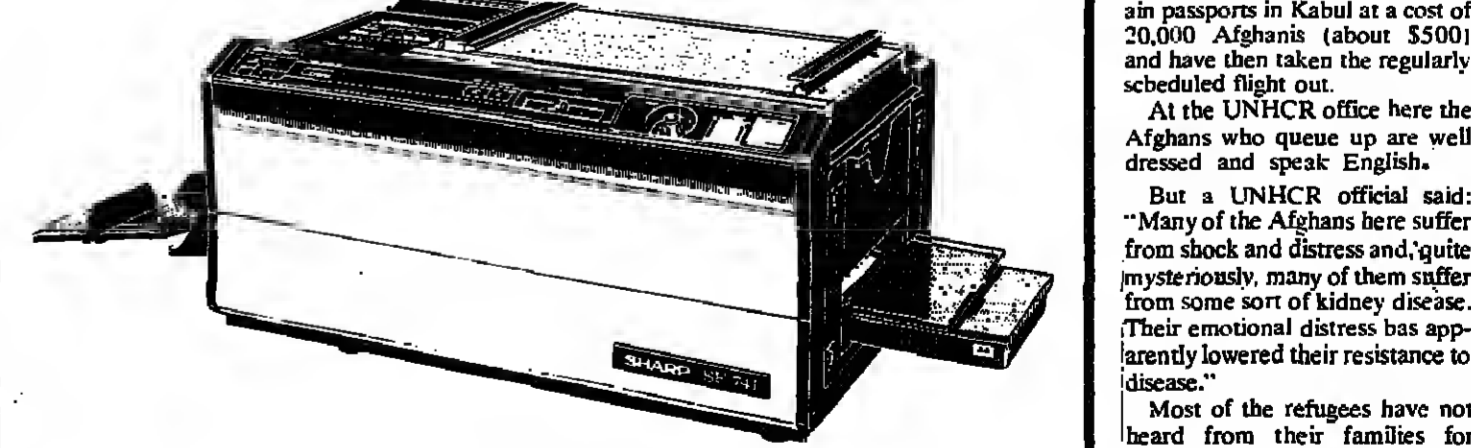
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ECONOMY

U.S. crude prices forced down

NEW YORK, May 19 (R) — The prices of crude oil produced in the United States, the biggest user of oil, have been forced down by a glut and a slump in demand, a sign OPEC can hardly ignore when it meets in Geneva next Monday.

Oil market analysts said the U.S. price cuts of up to two dollars a barrel this month could only add to pressure on members of OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) at least to freeze their prices while some U.S. buyers now seek OPEC price reductions.

By the end of last week more than a dozen U.S. refiners had cut one or two dollars from their prices, putting the price of U.S. sour crudes close to the \$32 for a barrel (42 U.S. gallons) charged by Saudi Arabia.

More militant OPEC exporters charge more, among them Algeria, Libya and Nigeria which, like Saudi Arabia, supply some imported U.S. oil.

At least one American oil company, Gulf Oil, has now said it will ask Nigeria to lower its official price.

Industry experts in New York and Houston said other companies would make similar requests of African producers.

Gulf would not say what price it wants from Nigeria, but several industry experts said a published report that it seeks a cut of three dollars fitted their estimate of the situation.

Nigeria's prices now range from \$38.72 to \$40.02 a barrel. A cut of three dollars would put this prized African crude within the range of differentials for quality sought by Saudi Arabia in a current drive for OPEC price moderation.

Despite the glut, Saudi Arabia has kept its crude output above normal levels. Oil experts see this as an attempt to bring down the highest OPEC prices and restore the price uniformity that prevailed before a post-revolution slump in Iranian exports in 1979 caused an oil shortage and set off price leaping by individual OPEC members.

African crudes, which always commanded higher prices because they yield more high-quality oil products per barrel than other types, have had several sharp price rises, often led by OPEC pricing "hawk" Libya.

U.S. domestic crude prices at around \$34 a barrel are now four to six dollars below the African crudes.

U.S. oil companies reported lower earnings from refining operations in the first three months of 1981 than in the same quarter of 1980, and some recorded losses, reflecting the price-led slump in demand. Experts estimate U.S. demand for oil and products to be down eight to 10 per cent on levels in the late 1970s.

Several major companies recently said they were shutting down some refining operations, retiring

their oldest facilities which account for about 10 per cent of total capacity.

In its latest monthly report, the

American Petroleum Institute, an industry group, said U.S. oil imports fell to 5.4 million barrels a day in April, the lowest since 1973 and

22.6 per cent lower than in April 1980. The institute also noted that imports provided 35 per cent of U.S. oil needs last month.

South Africa renews call for gold-based monetary system

LONDON, May 19 (A.P.) — South Africa's Finance Minister, Owen Horwood renewed his call today for an international gold-based monetary system. He said he envisaged the United States playing a leading role in establishing such a system.

He outlined proposals he had made to a September meeting of the International Monetary Fund in a speech to more than 300 delegates from 19 nations attending the world gold markets conference.

"As I see it, the appropriate way to proceed would be for the leading industrial countries to reach agreement on the best way of assigning a formal and well-defined monetary role to gold under present conditions, not only as an official reserve asset but also as the numeraire of the system," Horwood said.

"There can be no doubt that," as matters stand now, gold already performs an important monetary role.

"But there is an urgent need to clarify and formalise that role in order to bring more order into the system, to reduce uncertainty and to improve confidence in international monetary arrangements."

Mr. Horwood said that the European Monetary System, as it operates today, already represents a steep in that direction.

"The free world needs both United States and

the dollar. I have never seen the issue of monetary reform in terms of gold versus the dollar, but always one of gold and the dollar. To me the notion of phasing out the reserve currency role of the dollar is for the time being just as naive as that of phasing out gold.

"For these reasons, I believe that the best way of moving forward to a new gold-based system would be for the United States to take the lead by restoring convertibility of the dollar into gold at a fixed price."

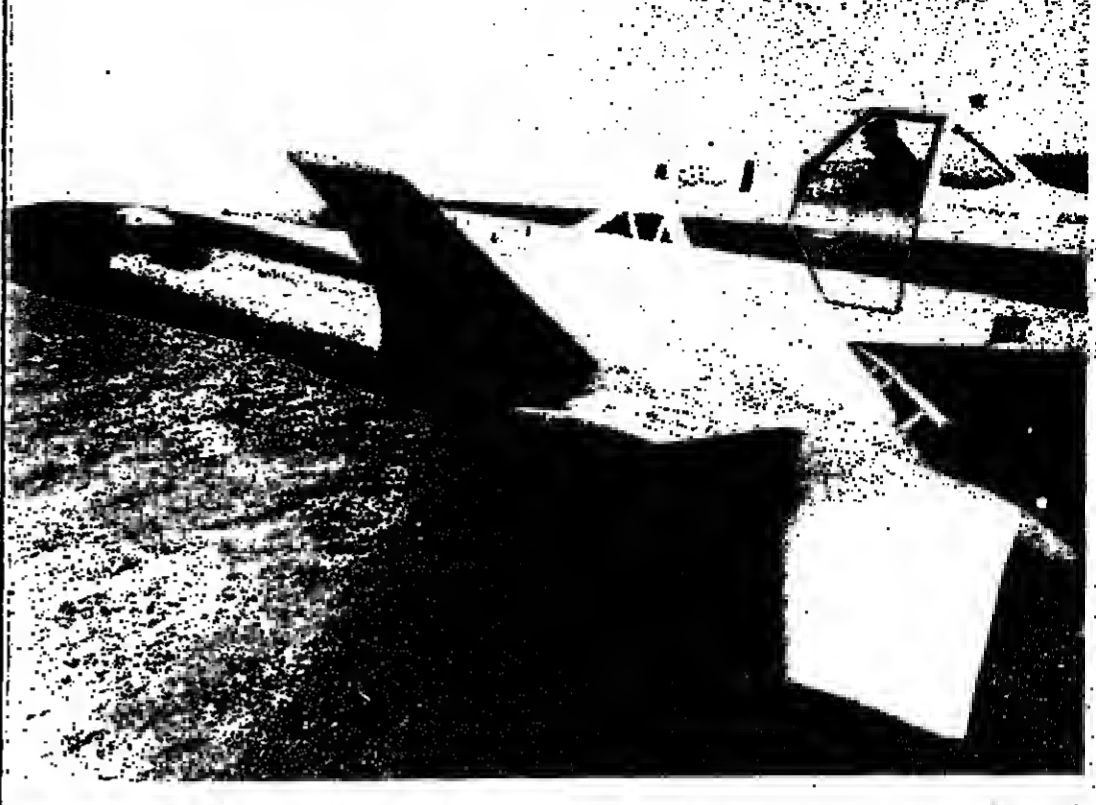
Brushing off the notion that gold was the enemy of the dollar, Mr. Horwood reminded his listeners that "the United States still has more gold in its reserves than any other country."

Mr. Horwood agreed that the institution of a new gold-based system alone would not solve the world's present economic ills.

Mr. Horwood said the world's present economic ills stem basically from a combination of excessive government spending and intervention in the economy, undue creation, unrealistic interest and exchange rates, unjustified protectionism, undue reliance on exchange and import controls, the inordinate use of subsidies and the general lack of national and international financial discipline.

"Any attempt to adopt a gold-based system without simultaneously tackling these basic causes would be doomed to failure."

Wingtip 'sails' save fuel, chemicals



Agricultural aircraft can spray chemicals more accurately and at less expense with the aid of these wingtip "sails"—devices developed at the Cranfield Institute of Technology (CIT) in Britain to improve the aerodynamic performance of aircraft wings.

Fuel cuts of up to 10% have been achieved by attaching a row of sails to each wingtip. The sails

point upwards and outwards into the airflow, turning the drag-inducing vortices of turbulent air that form at each wingtip into aerodynamically "clean" flow — reducing drag, increasing efficiency, and reducing fuel costs. An additional advantage with crop-spraying aircraft is that the steady caught in the turbulence from wing trailing edges and redirects them back into the flow.

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FEATURES

Births outpace deaths in Kampuchea

The Indochinese baby boom

By Bernard Melunsky

Phnom Penh — After suffering the deaths of possibly millions of its citizens, Kampuchea is experiencing a birth explosion reminiscent of Europe's post-war baby boom.

cent, which would put it among the highest in the world. Her estimate was based partly on a survey of five villages. Accurate statistics requested from provincial authorities have not been supplied, probably because they have had more urgent priorities.

Despite major health and social problems -- not to mention political uncertainties arising from the Vietnamese military occupation-- the current spate of births and pregnancies seems to ensure that Kampuchea's population will regain its size of the early 1970's.

Now, some Kampuchean health experts are worried not so much about promoting the population growth rate but about limiting the size of families to five children each.

The Vietnamese-backed government gives the present population as 5.7 million. It says that about three million people died during the pro-Chinese Khmer Rouge rule from 1975 to early 1979.

Exact figures, or even reliable estimates, are not available for the birth rate, death rate or overall population growth rate, mainly because of the difficulties of gathering information in a country where most births still take place at home rather than in hospital.

While the exact number of deaths resulting from the civil war, deprivation, revolutionary excesses and famine in the nightmare decade of the 1970s will never be known, foreign politicians and specialists in recent years frequently expressed fears about the survival of the Khmer race.

At the new babies are one of the most visible phenomena in the cities and countryside of Kampuchea today, and the baby boom is confirmed by Kampuchean officials and foreign aid workers.

Mrs. Ang Sarun, director of the Mother and Child Health Department, said in an interview that she estimated the birth rate for the whole country last year as 4.8 per

mothers only had enough milk for three or four months.

The situation had improved this year, she said, but was still serious. Very few mothers have enough milk for 10 months of breast feeding.

Kampuchea has not yet developed a family planning programme but Mrs. Ang Sarun believes it will be necessary to have one.

"Of course, we need more people, but we must also project for the future," she said, adding that at present some women were having a baby each year. "We need distances between pregnancies," she said.

In response to a question, Mrs. Ang Sarun said she knew of no births resulting from liaisons between Kampuchean women and Vietnamese soldiers.

But even if the new generation has no Vietnamese blood in its veins, it will almost certainly be subjected to an education heavily slanted in favour of Vietnam and its Communist system.

Traditional anti-Vietnamese feelings in Kampuchea are at present submerged because most people still appear to fear a resurgence of the Khmer Rouge more than the army which toppled

it. "We will train the new generation of Kampuchean to be like their fathers," said one Kampuchean official, "and the fathers are happy with the Vietnamese, who have helped us. We are absolutely isolated and they are our only friends."

Unless the Khmer Rouge guerrillas -- alone or as a major component of a united front -- force

changes in Kampuchea by military means, it seems likely that the new babies will grow up into a strict Communist Kampuchea closely allied to, and probably heavily influenced by, Vietnam.

"They will be happier than their parents," said the Kampuchean official, "because they will not have had Pol Pot."

(Reuters)

Abortive Thai coup paves way to spurt in crime and violence

By Thuang Myine

BANGKOK — Thailand's tough army, which last month smashed an attempted coup by dissident military officers, is being asked to help deal with an increase in crimes of violence.

The latest call on the soldiers to play the role of policemen came from members of parliament. Their appeal was supported by Interior Minister Prathuang Kiributr, who initiated the army into fighting crime in Bangkok.

Army and police chiefs reviewed and many more were suspended from active duty. The national police chief, Gen. Montchai Pangkongchuen, was also removed from his post.

Following the joint suppression of crimes here after the first 111 days told reporters that there was a drop in criminal violence.

A pre-dawn raid on criminal haunts in the city by 4,000 policemen and 150 soldiers yielded about 100 illegal guns and 100 large knives and more than 100 suspects were arrested.

Officials said army police action against criminals in the city would continue indefinitely.

Authorities were concerned because a recent attack on a train was the climax to several armed

holdups of buses and private cars in southern Thailand in which passengers were robbed and killed.

The interior minister said he would ask Lt-Gen. Juan Wannarat, commander of the Fourth Army responsible for the security of southern Thailand, to reinforce the police with his troops.

Fourth Army Deputy Commander Maj-Gen. Udorn Dittasri said in response that the troops in southern Thailand were ready to join the police in crime suppression.

But police authorities said the

ultimate responsibility for fighting crime must rest with them, though the force was unable to discharge it fully at present for lack of manpower.

The assistant police director-general, Lt-Gen. Charas Pengcharoen, said the police, diverted to other tasks, could not concentrate on crime suppression.

Gen. Charas said the police department planned to beef up the existing 130,000-strong force by 15,000 men in the financial year beginning next October.

(Reuters)



The birth rate in Kampuchea was 4.8 per cent in 1980 which makes it one of the highest in the world. (Gamma photo)

GOREN BRIDGE BY CHARLES H. GOREN. 1981 by Chicago Tribune. West led the king of diamonds, and dummy's length in the suit was an unwelcome sight. Declarer covered with dummy's ace and his worst fears were realized when East ruffed. East returned a spade and everything hinged on declarer's ability to find the king of clubs. It might appear that since East was void in diamonds, he rated to have longer clubs. Thus, declarer's best chance seemed to be to lead a club to the ace in the hope that the two missing cards in the suits were now split between the defenders. However, declarer realized that East had to have length in the major suits and that he might be able to obtain a count of the hand in perfect safety. Accordingly, declarer won the ace of spades and continued with the queen, discarding the ace of hearts from dummy. On the jack of spades, West sluffed a diamond and declarer got rid of the queen of hearts. Having established that West started with only two spades, declarer turned his attention to hearts. When West discarded a diamond on the second round of hearts, the count of the hand was complete. West was known to have started with two spades, one heart and eight diamonds, and therefore he had to have two clubs! So instead of trying to drop the missing trumps, declarer ran the queen with complete certainty. When East duly showed out, the slam was home.

THE BETTER HALF By Vinson. I think the layoff rumor I started has had its desired effect.

THE Daily Crossword by I. Judah Koolyk. ACROSS 1 Use a scythe 5 Rodeo rope 10 Ardur 14 Italian 15 Musician's org. 16 First son 17 Use a draldal 18 Macbeth's title 19 Rickey fruit 20 Patients who require patience 23 Huntlay 24 Wallach 25 Different 27 Of the aorta 32 Exams for 42A? 33 Dill, old style 34 Larry Bird's org. 35 See 20A 39 He helped modernize Japan 40 Whita or Blue river 41 Baneroff and Boleyn 42 They care for cusplids 45 Viper 46 Soul: Fr. 47 Muss of history 48 Interest of 20A 55 Deceive 56 Swap 57 Sailors' saint 58 Lulu 59 Kind of beer 60 Kind of beer 61 She preceded Marnie 62 Redacts 63 Signal for correct time 13 Vane dir. 21 Thorax 22 -de- France 25 Decaim 26 Eagle's asset 27 Indigo shrubs 28 Descartes 29 Senseless 30 Dogpatch denizen 31 Colleen 32 Latin poet 33 Entrance 36 Disturb 37 Marconi's medium 38 Like a slugged 43 Circus performers 44 Gremtin with 45 47 West 48 - die 49 St. Laurent 50 Toward the mouth 51 "The Gift of the" surface 52 Dieter's spread 53 Fed 54 Time long past 55 Biblical book

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee. Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words. RORYS, NEETA, SLUHBE, EVIDID. Print answer here: (Answers Monday) Yesterdays Jumbles: MADAM NIECE ANYHOW DISARM Answer: He was surrounded by the sewing circle--HEMMED IN

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting points for words.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

